

taken by ambulance to an emergency room in a hospital. She was rolled in on a gurney, unconscious. She survived. She had very significant injuries, but she survived.

Following that ordeal, she was released from the hospital to be told that her emergency room expenses would not be covered by the managed care organization because she did not have prior approval for emergency room treatment.

This is someone who was hauled into the emergency room on a gurney, unconscious. She was in a coma. She was told by the insurance company: You did not have prior approval for emergency room treatment.

The Patients' Bill of Rights is very simple. It says: A patient ought to have the right to know all of their medical options for treatment, not just the cheapest. A patient ought to have the right to emergency room treatment when they have an emergency. There are a whole series of rights that patients ought to have when dealing with their managed care organization.

There was the woman who cried one day at a hearing that I held with my colleague from Nevada as she held up a picture of her 16-year-old son who had died. She told us that on her son's deathbed he said to her: Mom, how can they do this to a kid like me? Through tears, she held up the picture of her young son who had died who had said: Mom, how can they do this to a kid like me?

That situation had forced this kid and his family to fight the insurance company to get the treatment he needed. They failed. He died. This was a kid who was told to fight cancer and fight the insurance company at the same time. That is unfair. That is not a fair fight.

You ought not have to fight cancer and your managed care organization to get the treatment you need. That is the point. We need to pass a real Patients' Bill of Rights. We have not done that. There are lots of excuses for it, but we need to get it done. We need to get it done now.

We need to add a prescription drug benefit for senior citizens on the Medicare program. We all know that. If we were to write the Medicare program today, there is no question we would have a prescription drug benefit in the program. But 30 years ago, 40 years ago when the Medicare program was created, most of the lifesaving drugs we have today did not exist. They do now. Each senior citizen needs access to those drugs.

Last year, the cost of prescription drugs increased 16 percent in this country. All too often the prescription drugs—the miracle drugs—they need are out of their reach because of their inability to pay for them. We need to add a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program. We can do that, and should do that.

We ought to raise the minimum wage. The folks at the bottom of the

economic ladder in this country have not kept up. We need to help them as well. Increasingly, they are women trying to raise families in single-parent households. We need to increase the minimum wage. We should do that. We can do that.

We ought to write a new farm bill. Everybody understands the current farm bill has failed. My feeling is, if we have the opportunity—and we should have the opportunity—in this Congress to write a new farm bill, we ought to be able to provide a decent safety net for those out there on America's farms who are struggling to make a living.

These issues and others—school modernization, fixing what is wrong in education—all of these things we can do, and should do. We only have 5 or 6 weeks remaining. I hope all of us, in the spirit of bipartisanship, can decide these are the issues, these are the things that are important to the American people, these are the things that will strengthen our country.

Yes, we have miles to go before we sleep, but we have the opportunity, in this setting, in this democracy, to make these decisions for the benefit of the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 Senator HELMS be recognized for up to 15 minutes to be followed by Senator CRAIG for up to 1 hour, to be followed by Senator HOLLINGS for up to 1 hour. I further ask that Senator KENNEDY be recognized for up to 30 minutes during today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WYOMING v. AUBURN

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, it is good to be back in the Chamber again. I have enjoyed a month of traveling around Wyoming. I know that our entire delegation was there on a number of occasions. We met at different places across the State as we listened to the people of the State to see what sorts of things they felt were important to our State and our Nation.

I have to mention that at the end of that trip, of course, there was some football. We are back in that season again. I have to explain the tie that I am wearing today. It is probably bright enough for anybody in the Chamber to be able to read it. Last Thursday night, the opening game for the University of Wyoming Cowboys and the Auburn War Eagles took place on ESPN. Many people might have seen it. I have to say that the Auburn Tigers—now called the War Eagles—were extremely impressive. It, obviously, is an educational institution of higher learning, and they

did teach Wyoming a few lessons. At the end of the game, Wyoming almost came back. They got a little overconfident and they got one touchdown behind and wound up losing. Therefore, today, I will be wearing an Auburn tie and making some comments about the fine program they have at Auburn.

I did get to teach part of an MBA class for executives who came in from all over the United States to learn about the business of this country and how to better perform in business. It is a rather unique class. It has wider participation than most, and people are required to have 8 years of experience before they can take the class. So it was a different level of master of business administration candidates than a person normally gets to talk to—again, absorbing some of the lessons they are learning through the questions that they ask.

I was very impressed with the university and the special programs they are offering. Of course, I had to be very impressed with their team. I am now one of the biggest supporters of Auburn outside of the State of Alabama, hoping they go undefeated in the rest of the season, helping Wyoming in their power index and, of course, I hope Wyoming doesn't lose another game this year. I am confident, because of the level of competition involved in this game, that that will be the case. I am proud of the players at the University of Wyoming, and I look forward to a very entertaining year, as well as one of great production as they learn their lessons so they can be the ones who take over the jobs of this country.

COMPLETING THE WORK OF THE SENATE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I have to add a few comments to what was previously said about needing to move forward because I sincerely believe we need to move forward with the work of the Senate.

The biggest work we have before us is finishing the appropriations bills—\$1.7 trillion of spending—and we ought to spend a few minutes debating that. If you will recall, before we left, one of the difficulties we were having was even getting the opportunity to debate those bills; There were filibusters prohibiting the right to debate the bills—extremely long filibusters. That was debate in itself, but it didn't allow the work of the Senate to proceed to appropriate the \$1.7 trillion. We need to pass the bills, get them brought up; we need to have them discussed and have relevant amendments put on the bills. We need to get that work out of the way first.

I can't help but comment a little on the Patients' Bill of Rights. The conference committee has been working on that. They were making great progress until it looked as if it might not be an issue anymore. Then it was brought up for a vote again and again using the original version, not the